



Office of The Attorney General  
**State of Connecticut**

**TESTIMONY OF  
ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD BLUMENTHAL  
BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE  
MARCH 16, 2009**

I appreciate the opportunity to support Senate Bill 1117, An Act Establishing a Demonstration Project for An Office of Administrative Hearings.

This legislation establishes an Office of Administrative Hearings that would provide hearing officers to hear and decide agency administrative matters. The Office would hear cases involving whistleblower retaliation, human rights complaints, transportation matters and the Department of Children and Families. The hearing officers would be trained in the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act process and in the substantive law areas for the cases that would be assigned to them

An independent hearings office is hardly a new concept. The federal government and other states have created administrative law judges to impartially decide citizens' petitions for state rights, privileges or benefits for which state law provides an administrative hearing.

A streamlined, professional state agency hearing process would assist citizens by creating a more consistent application of state law. Such written, consistent hearing officer decisions would also offer guidance to judges who may hear an appeal of those decisions.

I urge the committee's favorable consideration of Senate Bill 1117.